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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Nan Xie

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EXAMINER

PATEL, CHIRAG R

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/648,951	Applicant(s) XIE ET AL.	
	Examiner CHIRAG R. PATEL	Art Unit 2454	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-10,13-28,30-44 and 46-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 5-10, 13-28, 30-44, and 46-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 16, 2009 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-28, 30-44, and 46-54 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 51 which recites "request for information does *not include any value for a parameter required by said particular web service*" is in direct contrast to claim 1 (which claims 51 depends from) which discloses "*the request having first input data ...* , the first

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input data *including a value that corresponds to a parameter required by the particular web service*".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2, 5-10, 13-28, 30-44, and 46-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehrlich et al. – hereinafter Ehrlich (US 2002/0156685) in view of Li et al. – hereinafter Li (US 6,961,760).

As per claims 1 and 49, Ehrlich discloses a method for handling requests for web services, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving at a web services broker, ([0079]) from a particular instance of a client application, ([0077]) a request for information, wherein said request includes an identification of a particular web service from which said particular instance wants said requested information, ([0079])

wherein the particular web service serves as the source of said requested information, and is separate from the web services broker; ([0068; Figure 2: items 180, 185)

wherein the particular instance of said client application is separate from the web services broker in response to receiving said request, the web services broker ([0079]; Figure 2: items 100, 105)

accessing, based on said identification of said particular web service, transformation information that specifies, how to invoke said particular web service in a manner required by said particular web service, to obtain said requested information from said particular web service ([0080]; Figure 3B: item 390)

invoking, in said manner required by said particular web service, said particular web service to obtain said requested information from said particular web service; ([0088]-[0089]; Figure 3B :Item 395)

Ehrlich fails to disclose the request having first input data, the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by said particular web service to service requests for said information, the first input data including a value that corresponds to a parameter required by the particular web service;

accessing, based on said identification of said particular web service, transformation information that specifies, how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested information, and

transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a changed value; and wherein said requested information is

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obtained from said particular web service by providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said parameter.

Li discloses the request having first input data, the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by said particular web service to service requests for said information, (Col 7 lines 1-13)the first input data including a value (Col 13 line 55-Col 14 line 10; parameter values for matching against previously-stored recognition logic to select a stored template) that corresponds to a parameter required by the particular web service; (Col 14 lines 14-27; a parameter value might be passed on the transformation service request which identifies a target recipient of the document to be transformed)

accessing, based on said identification of said particular web service, transformation information that specifies, how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested information, and (Col 6 lines 6-43, Col 13 line 56-Col 14 line 14; Figure 7: items 740, 760)

transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a changed value; (Col 13 line 56-Col 14 line 14; Figure 7: item 770)and wherein said requested information is obtained from said particular web service (Col 7 line 24-30)by providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said parameter. (Col 7 lines 14-23)

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Ehrlich to disclose the request having first input data,

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the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by said particular web service to service requests for said information, the first input data including a value that corresponds to a parameter required by the particular web service; accessing, based on said identification of said particular web service, transformation information that specifies, how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested information, and transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a changed value; and wherein said requested information is obtained from said particular web service by providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said parameter.

The motivation would have been to allow business partners to exchange data and business messages, without requiring software to be specially designed or rewritten for this purpose. (Col 2 lines 26-29)

As per claim 2, Ehrlich / Li disclose the method of claim 1. Li discloses further comprising the steps of:

receiving, from said particular web service, said requested information; and transforming, based on said transformation information, said requested information to data that said client application can use. (Col 7 lines 24-30)

As per claims 5 and 30, Ehrlich / Li disclose the method of claim 1. Li discloses

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further wherein said transformation information includes a mapping of first input data from a first particular client application to second input data that a first web service can use, and a mapping of first input data from a second particular client application to said second input data that said first web service can use, and wherein said first input data from said first particular client application has a different form than said first input data from said second particular client application. (Col 7 lines 1-13)

As per claims 6 and 31, Ehrlich / Li disclose the method of Claim 1. Li discloses wherein said transformation information includes a mapping of first input data from a first client application to second input data that a first web service can use and to second input data that a second web service can use, and wherein said first web service is different than said second web service. (Col 6 lines 6-43)

As per claim 7, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method of Claim 1, and Ehrlich discloses further comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

based on said transformation information, determining whether to use RPC style of communication or messaging style of communication to invoke said particular web service. ([0080]; The protocol broker 105 then chooses for each purchase request, the most appropriate protocol and communication mode)

As per claim 8, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method of Claim 1, and Ehrlich discloses further comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

based on said transformation information, determining whether to use SOAP encoding to encode a communication for invoking said particular web service. ([0080])

As per claims 9-10, 13-16, 33-44, 46-48, 52, and 54, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method recited in Claim 1 and Ehrlich discloses a computer-readable storage medium storing one or more sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform. ([0065])

As per claims 17 and 50, Ehrlich discloses a method for handling requests for web services, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving at a web services broker, ([0079]) from a particular instance of a client application, a request for information, wherein said request includes an identification of a particular instance of said client application, ([0077])

wherein the particular web service serves as the source of said requested information and is separate from the web services broker; ([0068; Figure 2: items 180, 185)

wherein the client application is separate from the web services broker ([0079]; Figure 2: items 100, 105)

in response to receiving said request, based on said identification of said particular instance of said client application, the web services broker accessing transformation information; ([0080])

wherein said transformation information includes a mapping between said identification of said particular instance of said client application and an identification of said particular web service, ([0080]; the protocol broker 105 parses and analyzes the purchase request to retrieve the corresponding merchant protocol data from the merchant schema database 120; Figure 3: item 390)

the mapping indicating that said particular instance prefers said particular web service to service requests from said particular instance for said requested information; ([0080]; the protocol broker 105 parses and analyzes the purchase request to retrieve the corresponding merchant protocol data from the merchant schema database 120; Figure 3: item 390)

wherein said transformation information specifies how to invoke said particular web service in a manner required by said particular web service, to obtain said requested information from said particular web service; and ([0080]; Figure 3B: item 390)

the web services broker invoking, in said manner required by said particular web service, said particular web service to obtain said requested information from said particular web service; ([0088]-[0089]; Figure 3B :Item 395)

Ehrlich fails to disclose the request having first input data, the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by a particular web service to service requests for said information, the first input data including a value that corresponds to an input parameter required by the particular web service; wherein said transformation

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information specifies how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested information, based on said transformation information, the web services broker transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a changed value; wherein said requested information is obtained from said particular web service by the web services broker providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said input parameter.

Li discloses the request having first input data, the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by a particular web service to service requests for said information, (Col 7 lines 1-13) the first input data including a value (Col 13 line 55-Col 14 line 10; parameter values for matching against previously-stored recognition logic to select a stored template)that corresponds to an input parameter required by the particular web service; (Col 14 lines 14-27; a parameter value might be passed on the transformation service request which identifies a target recipient of the document to be transformed) wherein said transformation information specifies how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested information, (Col 6 lines 6-43, Col 13 line 56-Col 14 line 14; Figure 7: items 740, 760)

based on said transformation information, the web services broker transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data

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includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a changed value; (Col 13 line 56-Col 14 line 14; Figure 7: item 770)

wherein said requested information is obtained from said particular web service (Col 7 line 24-30) by the web services broker providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said input parameter. (Col 7 lines 14-23)

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Ehrlich to disclose the request having first input data, the first input data being in a form that cannot be used by a particular web service to service requests for said information, the first input data including a value that corresponds to an input parameter required by the particular web service; wherein said transformation information specifies how to transform said first input data associated with said request to second input data that said particular web service can use to service requests for said requested information, based on said transformation information, the web services broker transforming said first input data to said second input data, wherein transforming the first input data includes changing said value, based on said transformation information, to create a changed value; wherein said requested information is obtained from said particular web service by the web services broker providing the changed value to the particular web service as a value for said input parameter.

The motivation would have been to allow business partners to exchange data and business messages, without requiring software to be specially designed or rewritten for this purpose. (Col 2 lines 26-29)

As per claim 18, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method of claim 17, and Ehrlich discloses wherein said identification of a particular instance of said client application includes identification of a user of said client application. ([0077])

As per claim 19, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method of Claim 17, and Li discloses further comprising the computer- implemented step of:

passing said second input data as input to said particular web service to service said request. (Col 14 lines 14-27; a parameter value might be passed on the transformation)

As per claim 20, Ehrlich discloses the method of Claim 19. Li discloses wherein said transformation information specifies a mapping between said first input data output from said client application and data that said particular web service can use as input to determine said requested information; and (Col 7 lines 1-13)

wherein said step of passing includes passing said second data, according to said transformation information, as input to said particular web service to determine said requested information. (Col 14 lines 14-27; a parameter value might be passed on the transformation)

As per claim 21, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method of Claim 20, and Ehrlich

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discloses wherein said transformation information specifies a first manner in which said particular web service can be invoked to service requests for said requested information; ([0080]; Figure 3B: item 390) and wherein said step of passing includes passing said second input data in said first manner, to invoke said particular web service to determine said requested information. ([0088]-[0089]; Figure 3B: item 395)

As per claim 22, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method of claim 21, and Ehrlich discloses

wherein said transformation information specifies a second manner in which said second input data is characterized so that said particular web service can be invoked to service requests for said requested information; and ([0080])

wherein said step of passing includes passing, according to said first manner, said second input data that is characterized according to said second manner, to invoke said particular web service to determine said requested information. ([0088]-[0089])

As per claim 23, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method of claim 21, and Ehrlich discloses wherein the method of claim 22, wherein said second manner includes characterizing said second input data according to Simple Object Access Protocol. ([0079])

As per claim 24, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method of Claim 19, and Ehrlich

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discloses wherein said transformation information specifies a first manner in which said particular web service can be invoked to service requests for said requested information and a second manner in which said second input data is characterized in an invocation of said particular web service; and([0080])

wherein said step of passing includes passing, according to said first manner, said second input data that is characterized according to said second manner, to invoke said particular web service to determine said requested information. ([0088]-[0089])

As per claim 25, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method of Claim 17, and Ehrlich discloses wherein said particular web service has characteristics that are described in Web Service Description Language. ([0080])

As per claim 26, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method of Claim 25, and Ehrlich discloses wherein said particular web service has characteristics that are published in a Universal Description, Discovery, and Integration registry. ([0080])

As per claim 27, Ehrlich / Li disclose the method of Claim 17 and Li discloses further comprising the steps of: receiving, from said particular web service, said requested information; and transforming, based on said transformation information, said requested information to data that said client application can use. (Col 7 lines 24-30)

As per claim 28, Ehrlich / Li discloses the method of Claim 17, and Li discloses

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wherein said transformation information specifies how to transform a plurality of first input data each from a respective client application of a plurality of client applications, to a plurality of second input data each for a respective web service of a plurality of web services. (Col 6 lines 57-67)

As per claim 32, Ehrlich / Li disclose the method of claim 31, and Li discloses wherein said first web service and said second web service can determine the same requested information, and wherein said second input data that said first web service can use is different from said second data that said second web service can use. (Col 9 lines 1-20)

As per claim 51, Ehrlich / Li disclose the method of claim 1. Li discloses wherein the request for information does not include any value for a parameter required by said particular web service (Col 13 line 55-Col 14 line 10; one of a template to use in the transformation, (ii) a registration handle or other identifier of a previously-stored template, or (iii) parameter values for matching against previously-stored recognition logic to select a stored template; condition where it includes (i) or (ii), but not (iii))

wherein the step of transforming includes supplementing the first input data with a value for said parameter. (Col 14 lines 14-27; a parameter value might be passed on the transformation)

As per claim 53, Ehrlich / Li disclose the method of claim 1. Li discloses the method of claim 1, wherein said transformation information specifies how to transform a plurality of first data each from a respective source of a plurality of sources, to a plurality of second data each for a respective web service of a plurality of web services. (Col 6 lines 57-67)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chirag R Patel whose telephone number is (571)272-7966. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn, can be reached on (571) 272-1915.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pairedirect.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

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/C. R. P./
Examiner, Art Unit 2454

/Nathan J. Flynn/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2454